

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03742 291107 Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
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R 290858 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2696
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TOKYO 3742

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR JA UR
SUBJ: BREZHNEV LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA

REF TOKYO 2 616

1. ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS VICE MINISTER HOGEN, DEPUTY DIRGEN NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, SUMIYA, CALLED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO FOREIGN OFFICE MARCH 29 FOR BRIEFING ON CONTENTS OF BREZHNEV LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR MARCH 28. SUMIYA, WAS CONVERSANT ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS WITH DETAILS OF MESSAGE AND SPENT SOME TIME CONSULTING TEXT AS HE EXPLAINED CONTENTS.
 2. LETTER OPENED WITH STATEMENT BY BREZHNEV WELCOMING DEEPING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR AND STRESSING THAT PROCESS SHOULD BE BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF NON INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHERS INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WITHOUT IMPAIRING EITHER COUNTRY' S RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR ON JAPAN- USSR PEACE TREATY AND SUGGESTED THAT DATE FOR PEACE TALKS BE WORKED OUT BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. BREZHNEV THEN ADDED THAT QTE POSITION OF SOVIET UNION ON THIS SUBJECT WAS WELL KNOWN TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT UNQTE.
 3. NEXT SECTION OF LETTER DEALT WITH ECONOMIC COOPERATION
- SECRET

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IN SIBERIAN OIL AND GAS RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. HERE AGAIN, BREZHNEV WELCOMED JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE AND PROPOSED THAT DETAILS BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

4. FINAL PORTION OF BREZHNEV LETTER CONSISTED OF FORMAL INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER TANAKA TO VISIT SOVIET UNION LATER IN YEAR WITH MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE TO BE WORKED OUT. BREZHNEV ADDED THAT THIS CONSTITUTED RE-STATEMENT OF EARLIER SOVIET INVITATION TO JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER IN 1964.

5. SUMIYA WAS UNAWARE OF WHETHER ANY AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON POSSIBLE DATES EITHER FOR VISIT OR FOR PEACE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT FONOFF HAD BEEN STRUCK BY FACT THAT RESPONSE TO TANAKA LETTER HAD COME RELATIVELY QUICKLY AND HAD BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE. ON OTHER HAND, THEY INTERPRETED STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET POSITION ON PEACE TREATY BEING WELL KNOWN TO GOJ AS INDICATION THAT MOSCOW WAS NOT PREPARED TO YIELD ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES QUESTION. THEREFORE, ACCORDING SUMIYA, FONOFF HAD LITTLE HOPE FOR REAL PROGRESS ON PEACE TREATY.

6. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIET DESK AT FONOFF WHO WILL PROBABLY BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT NUANCES AND DETAILS OF BREZHNEV LETTER.
INGERSOLL

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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